

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

As Technology Coordinator for Benton County School District I fully understand the importance funding for schools and libraries for Educational Rate discounts plays in bringing affordable connectivity to our nation's schools. In fact I am, presently filing Form 471s for discounts for this service for my district's telephone and Internet connectivity. However, the two cell phones I own for myself and wife should not be included in paying a flat fee to the USF.

These are the pre-pay type phones that are used infrequently by myself and wife for urgent or emergency purposes and the safety of having phone connection while on the road. I have to purchase just under \$20 of pre-paid minutes each month per phone just to keep the phone active and the available minutes from expiring. Even so I have built up over 300 minutes on these phones because my call volume is so low. It is a cheaper solution for me because a single phone on a monthly rate starts at \$39 per month for just one phone from either of my local cellular providers. It was the reason I cancelled the Cingular account for my wife's phone last year and changed her over to a pre-paid cell phone. It cut my total cell phone bill by half!

I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

I already contribute to the fund by paying for the traditional "land line" phone at my home.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Art Collier
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